Amendments to the CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) Process for producing enantiopure β-amino acid derivatives corresponding to general formula (I)

R1-NZ-CHR2-CH_2-COOR3 (I)

in which

R1 and R2 independently denote organic residues or R1 and R2 together form a cyclic substituent,

R3 denotes H or an organic residue, and

Z represents H or an amino function-protecting group,

comprising a step in which a mixture of enantiomers of a compound corresponding to general formula (II)

R1-NZ-CHR2-CH_2-COOR4 (II)

in which

R1, R2 and Z are as defined for formula (I), and

R4 is an organic residue,

is subjected to hydrolysis in the presence of a Pseudomonas cepacia lipase.

2. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, in which the substituents R1 and R2 in the compounds of general formula (I) and (II) form a heterocycle with the group N-Z-CH.

3. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 2, in which the heterocycle comprises at least one additional hetero atom.

4. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, in which the substituent Z in the compound of general formula (II) is an amino function-protecting group.

5. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, in which the substituent R4 in the compound of general formula (II) is a methyl or ethyl group.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, in which the hydrolysis is carried out at a temperature of 0° to 50°C and a pH of 6 to 8.

8. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, in which the amount of lipase used is 10 to 100 mg/mmol of compound of formula (II).

9. (Previously presented) Process for producing a peptide or a peptide analogue, according to which

(a) an enantiopure β-amino acid derivative is produced according to the process of Claim 1;

(b) the enantiopure β-amino acid derivative obtained is used to produce the peptide or the peptide analogue.

10.- 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, in which the substituents R1 and R2 in the compounds of general formula (I) and (II) form a heterocycle with the group N-Z-CH, said ring comprising from 4 to 8 atoms.

14. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 13, wherein said ring comprising from 5 to 7 atoms.

15. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 2, wherein said hetero atom is N, O or S.

16. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, in which the substituent Z in the compound of general formula (II) is an amino function-protecting group which is an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group or an aralkoxycarbonyl group.

17. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim 13, wherein said ring comprising from 5 to 6 atoms.

18. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein R3 is a linear or branched alkyl or alkylene group which may contain a hetero atom.

19. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim 18, wherein R3 is an alkyl group.